

## **USAID/Zimbabwe Family Planning**

Knowledge of modern family planning methods is nearly universal in Zimbabwe. The 2010/2011 Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Service (ZDHS) survey found that 98 percent of women and 99 percent of men aged 15-49 know at least one modern method of family planning. The ZDHS also found that, while the overall contraceptive prevalence rate has remained largely unchanged at 59 percent from the previous 2005/2006 ZDHS, there has been a significant drop in contraceptive prevalence rates in urban areas from 70 percent to 62 percent. Additionally, the national unmet need for family planning services remains static at 13 percent, fluctuating from 26 percent in Matabeleland South Province to nine percent in Mashonaland Central Province. This indicates a need to amplify efforts to extend family planning services to populations in hard-to-reach areas of Zimbabwe.

USAID has been supporting family planning in Zimbabwe since the 1980s - soon after the nation's independence - and was the primary donor throughout the 1980s and 1990s. USAID resumed its support to expand access to comprehensive family planning services in Zimbabwe in 2009 through its implementing partner, Population Services Zimbabwe, to provide mobile outreach services and jumpstart the establishment of the Bluestar social franchising network. The family planning program contributes to the U.S. Government's Global Health Initiative goal of reducing maternal mortality and illness, and preventing unintended pregnancies through increased access to FP services for poor and under-served populations in Zimbabwe. Other key donors supporting family planning activities in Zimbabwe include the United Nations Population Fund and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID). USAID provides family planning services through mobile outreach activities in all of Zimbabwe's 63 districts, as well as through 29 private sector FP service providers. Given the drop in contraceptive prevalence rates in urban areas and high-unmet family need among youth, the private sector network is addressing the family planning needs of urban and peri-urban areas, as well as establishing youth-friendly family planning services.